

Cp379.4

C32c

C.2

CONSOLIDATION OF CARTERET SCHOOLS

Cp 379.4
C32c
c.2

Consolidation

OF

Carteret County Schools

Under

ARTICLE 6, SECTION 73A

CODIFIED SCHOOL LAW

The County Unit Plan

For

ECONOMIZING AND EQUALIZING

SCHOOL ADVANTAGES IN

CARTERET COUNTY



Library
OF THE
University of North Carolina

This book was presented by

O. G. Dunn

Cp 379.4-C32c

c. 2

FOREWORD

The New Codified School Law says that every county board of education in the State shall prepare a county-wide plan for consolidating the schools of the county. After it is prepared a meeting of all the committeemen and trustees of the county shall be called and this plan presented to them for discussion and approval or disapproval.

The meeting of committees and trustees provided for in this law was held for Carteret County in Beaufort on October the 16th. At this meeting a county-wide consolidation plan was presented to the committees by the board of education and after considerable discussion was unanimously adopted.

The county-wide unit plan of organization which would take the place of the present special tax district was also discussed and approved by the committeemen. The committeemen requested that the board of education have a pamphlet printed explaining the plan adopted for county-wide consolidation and also the county-unit plan of school organization and distribute the pamphlet throughout the county in order that the people might become acquainted with the facts about school consolidation and organization. This pamphlet sets forth the county-wide consolidation plan and the county-unit plan mentioned above and discusses school consolidation in general.

P10952

TO THE PEOPLE OF CARTERET COUNTY:

The law of the State has laid upon us the duty of preparing a plan for the county-wide consolidation of schools. We have prepared this plan as best we knew how, after two years of constant and painstaking study. We have presented the plan to the school committees of the county and they have approved it. At the request of the committees assembled in a county-wide meeting on October the 16th, 1923, we are presenting this plan to you.

We do not claim that it is perfect. Many improvements will, no doubt, be made in the future. We do claim, however, that we, as loyal citizens of the county with its best interests at heart, have tried to give you the best school system we could with the means at our command. We have tried to lay out on broad lines the foundation for a county-wide school system. We have tried to take a liberal view of each proposition as it presented itself and where possible to solve it for the future as well as the present.

We wish to express our appreciation to the progressive friends of education in the county who have cooperated with us and made it possible to put into operation during the past two years the major part of this plan for county-wide consolidation. We hope you will give your attention to the advantages of the county-unit plan of school organization as discussed in this pamphlet, and if you think it is a good thing, and that every child in the county should have equal educational advantages, with an eight months school term, cast your vote for the plan when opportunity presents itself. In the near future an election will be called under the act quoted in this pamphlet TO ECONOMICIZE AND EQUALIZE SCHOOL ADVANTAGES IN CARTERET COUNTY.

R. T. WADE, Chairman, }
W. H. TAYLOR, } Board of Education
W. IRVIN WILLIS, } of Carteret Co.

A COUNTY-WIDE PLAN FOR CONSOLIDATING THE SCHOOLS OF CARTERET COUNTY

The new school law makes it mandatory upon every county board of education to adopt a county-wide plan for consolidating the schools of each county and after this plan of county-wide consolidation is adopted by the board of education and the school committeemen of the county all consolidations in the future must conform to the plan.

The consolidation plan discussed and adopted unanimously by the board of education and the school committeemen of Carteret County provides for five large consolidations for the county and several small ones. The consolidation centres where high schools have been established or probably will be are as follows:

White Oak Township Consolidation

Newport Consolidation

Smyrna Township Consolidation

Atlantic Consolidation.

First, White Oak Township Consolidation, includes the larger part of White Oak Township and will possibly include a part of Morehead City Township. This school will be located between Bogue and the present Rocky Run school house. This consolidation will include Weeks Neck District, Buck's Store District, Rocky Run District, Bogue District, Ocean District and probably Broad Creek and Stella. This consolidation will carry with it a high school and a standard elementary school.

Second, the Newport Consolidation will stand as it is with the following additions: The western part of the present Wildwood District, the Gales Creek District and the Broad Creek District, provided Broad Creek does not

go to the White Oak Township consolidation.

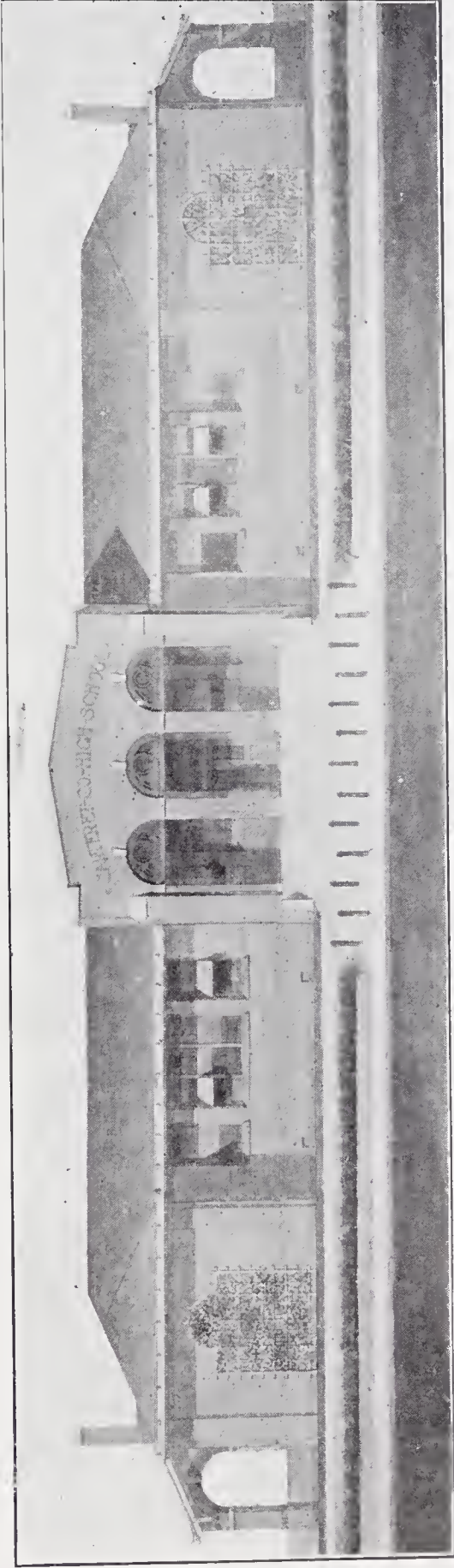
Third, the New Bern Road Consolidation will include Harlowe District, Core Creek, Wire Grass, Upper North River and Russell's Creek. This school will be located somewhere near the present Wire Grass building. This consolidation will provide a standard elementary school and high school advantages. This consolidation will be one of the best in the county on account of the fact that a hard surfaced road will traverse the whole district.

Fourth, the Smyrna Township Consolidation with the central high school located at Smyrna will have probably more children in it than any other in the county. This high school is already the second largest high school in the county, having more than a hundred high school pupils at the present time.

The fifth consolidation will include Stacy, Sea Level and Atlantic. At the present time the high school children from Stacy go to Smyrna. This is due to an impassable piece of road between Stacy and Sea Level. These three villages will be served above the seventh grade by the Atlantic High School as a permanent arrangement.

This plan provides also for several smaller consolidations. Camp Glenn Consolidation when complete will be composed of the eastern part of the Wildwood District, Crab Point District, West Morehead and Camp Glenn. The high school pupils of this district will be served by the Morehead City High School. The Camp Glenn School will be a standard elementary school. The county-wide plan also provides for consolidating the two schools on Cedar Island into one, also the South River School and the Merrimon School. It provides for Lower North River School to be consolidated with Beaufort Graded School.

There are a few isolated one-teacher schools that will probably have to remain one-teacher schools for a long time, but it is the plan of the board of education to give these places the very best that can be had in a one-teacher school.



SMYRNA CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL — (From Architect's Drawing)

Smyrna Consolidated High School serves a broad and thickly populated district. This is the largest rural high school in the county. The building is constructed of brick, is furnished throughout with standard equipment and is doing standard high school work this year. The enrollment of high school pupils in this school to date for the year 1923-24 is one hundred fourteen.

THE COUNTY-UNIT PLAN OF SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

The county-unit plan of school organization is a very live school topic at the present time. Several counties of the State have already adopted it. The present plan of administration is on the old district plan.

The county-unit plan proposes to levy the same rate of special school tax throughout the county and run all of the schools of the county the same number of months and under as near the same conditions as possible. The object is to give the children in the poor and sparsely settled districts the same advantages that the districts containing the centres of wealth and population have.

The plan as outlined for Carteret County proposes a special maintenance tax of 30c on the hundred dollars valuation and a special building tax of 20c on the hundred dollars valuation. This would enable us to run every school in the county for a term of eight months. It would enable the county board of education to take over all of the school district bonds that have been issued, paying the interest on them and retiring them as they come due and in addition complete the building program that has been started, giving the districts that have not been provided with adequate buildings the buildings needed.

To do this would lower the tax rate that is now being paid by most of the special tax districts of the county. For instance, Newport and Camp Glenn are now paying a maintenance tax of 30c and a bond tax of 30c, making a total of 60c on the hundred. The proposed county-unit plan would give them the same advantages for a tax rate of 10c less on the hundred. Davis, Stacy and Sea Level are paying a maintenance tax of 30c and a bond tax of 25c. This would enable these schools to run eight months whereas they have been unable to run but seven and it would take care of their bonds also, with a 5c lower tax rate. The White Oak Consolidated District will have a tax of 30c maintenance and 30c for bonds, making a total

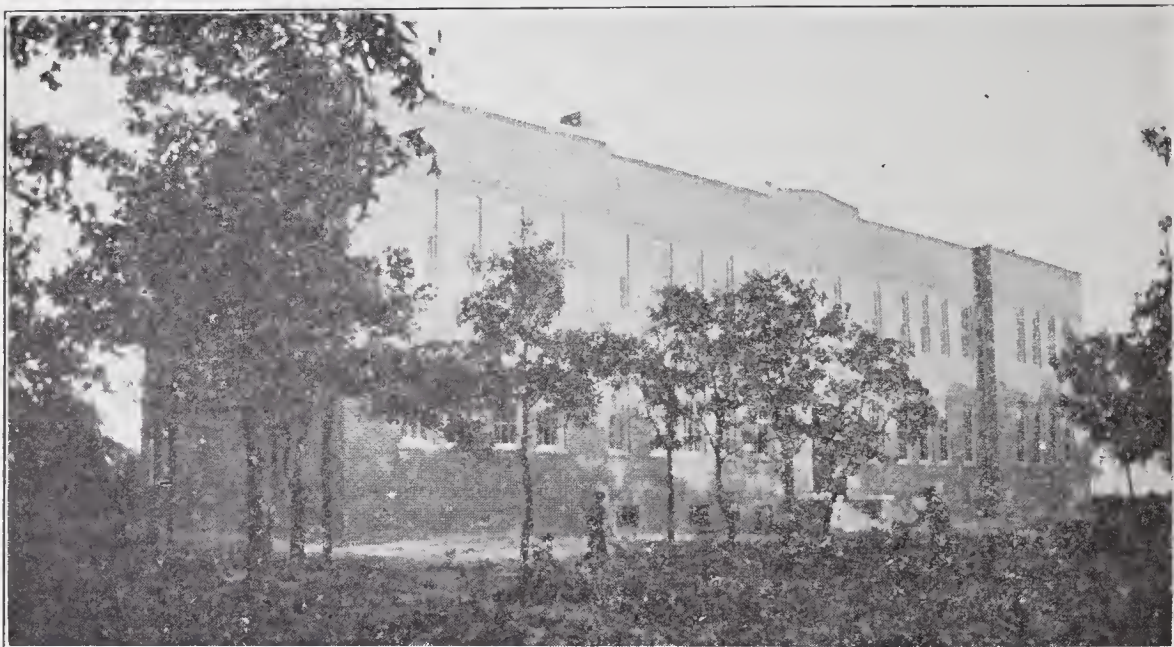
of 60c. This plan would lower the tax rate of this district 10c on the hundred and provide the same advantages. Atlantic pays a 50c maintenance tax and a 30c bond tax. The county-unit plan would lower the taxes in this district 30c on the hundred and give it the same advantages that it now has. Harkers Island Township, Cedar Island Township and Salter Path District all have a tax rate of 50c on the hundred, but this special tax will not give them more than a seven months school. The county-unit plan will give these districts an additional month of school without increasing their taxes.

It is easy to see that the larger part of the county will have its taxes lowered by the county-unit plan of organization and get the same or better advantages.

The question naturally arises, how can this be? The explanation is that there is a lot of property in the county held for speculative purposes in the out-of-the-way places that is not in any particular school district and that escapes special school taxes entirely. Is there any reason why outside capitalists should come into the county and buy up our land and hold it for speculation and not help to bear the burden of taxation while their property is becoming more and more valuable every day? There is no reason why the owners of this property should be shielded from their share of the taxes to develop the county and enhance the value of their property.

The county-unit plan proposes to do three things: First, to equalize school advantages throughout the county, giving the rich and the poor the same advantages. Second, it proposes to equalize the tax rate for schools throughout the county. Third, it proposes to lower the special school tax rate in a majority of the special tax districts of the county.

The proposed county-unit plan includes only the rural territory of the county. The graded school districts of Morehead City and Beaufort may vote themselves in and become a part of it if they care to, but this would be done at and under a separate election.



CAMP GLENN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We stand a-tiptoe on the misty mountain height and see the morning sun make purple the glories of the east. We are entering upon a new day, the day of equality, of opportunity, the hour when every man shall be free to work mightily for himself until his soul, filled to satisfaction, shall overflow with a common benefit to mankind, owing no tribute to any one and bound only to love his fellowman and serve his God as to him may seem best.

EQUAL ! That is the word! On that word I plant myself and my party—the equal right of every child born on earth to have the opportunity “to burgeon out all that there is within him.”
—AYCOCK.

ECONOMY TO CONSOLIDATE HIGH SCHOOLS

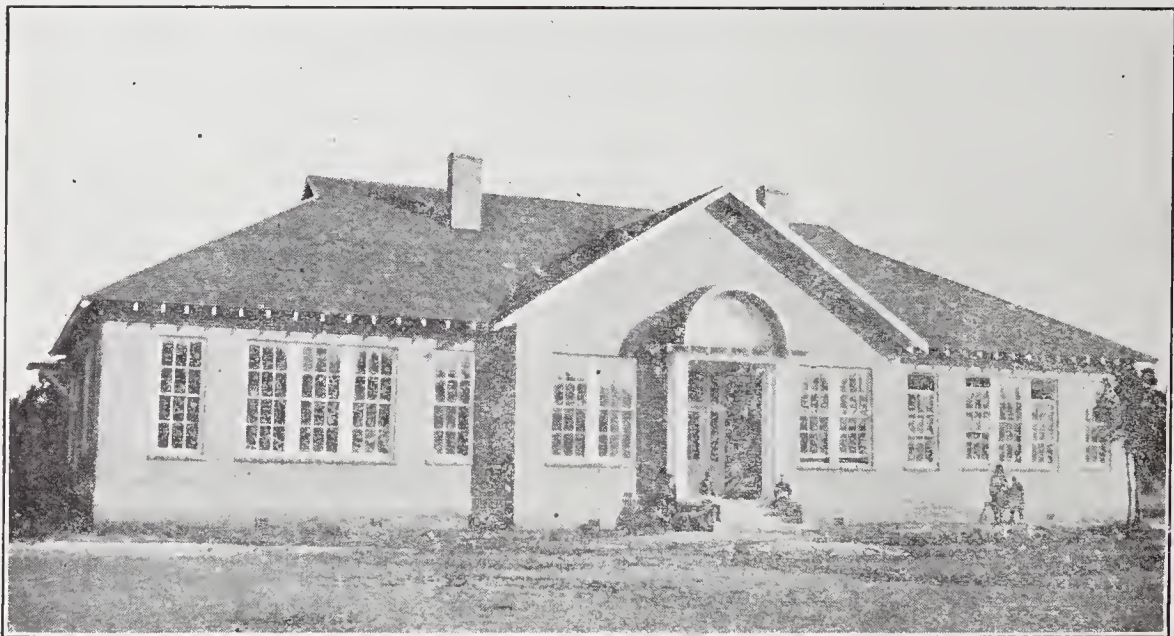
We are getting further and further away from that old idea that wherever we can get together a dozen or a score of high school pupils and one teacher that we can drive down a peg and say that we will have here a high school. The requirements for a high school have become standardized and it has been found by experience that to try to have a high school with much less than these standard requirements is more or less a waste of energy and money.

The main requirements for a standard high school are: first, three high school teachers; second, proper equipment; and third, about fifty high school pupils as a minimum. Now why are these things necessary? It takes three teachers, at least, to teach four years high school work in a manner worth while. It takes a certain amount of equipment and apparatus to do the work with. Less than 45 or 50 pupils for this outlay would be very expensive per capita, for something like four thousand dollars per year is about as little as a standard high school can be maintained on. Therefore, if a community has less than the above number of pupils for high school instruction it is usually better to transport them to another community if it is not too inconvenient.

For example, the Camp Glenn Consolidated School is located within a few miles of Morehead City. We transport the high school pupils from this district to Morehead City High School for something like \$25 per month, and it does not cost a penny more to run the Morehead City High School with these pupils in it, but it would cost the Camp Glenn Consolidated District at least from \$300 to \$500 per month to offer these children the same advantages at home.

As a further example, last year we taught 58 high school pupils at the three schools of Straits, Marshallberg and Smyrna with an average attendance respectively of 22.29, 18.31 and 17, at the different places. Counting

what transportation was done last year for this work, which was only one truck, the average monthly cost was \$8.02 per pupil. This year we are transporting these schools to Smyrna where we have three high school teachers, a well equipped building, and are doing standard high school work; and including the cost of transportation and everything else it is costing us only \$5.74 per pupil per month. Sometimes consolidation is an economical proposition. This is due to the fact that pupils can be taught cheaper per capita in large numbers where classes can be better arranged and organized.



STACY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

“WHERE THERE IS NO VISION THE PEOPLE PERISH”

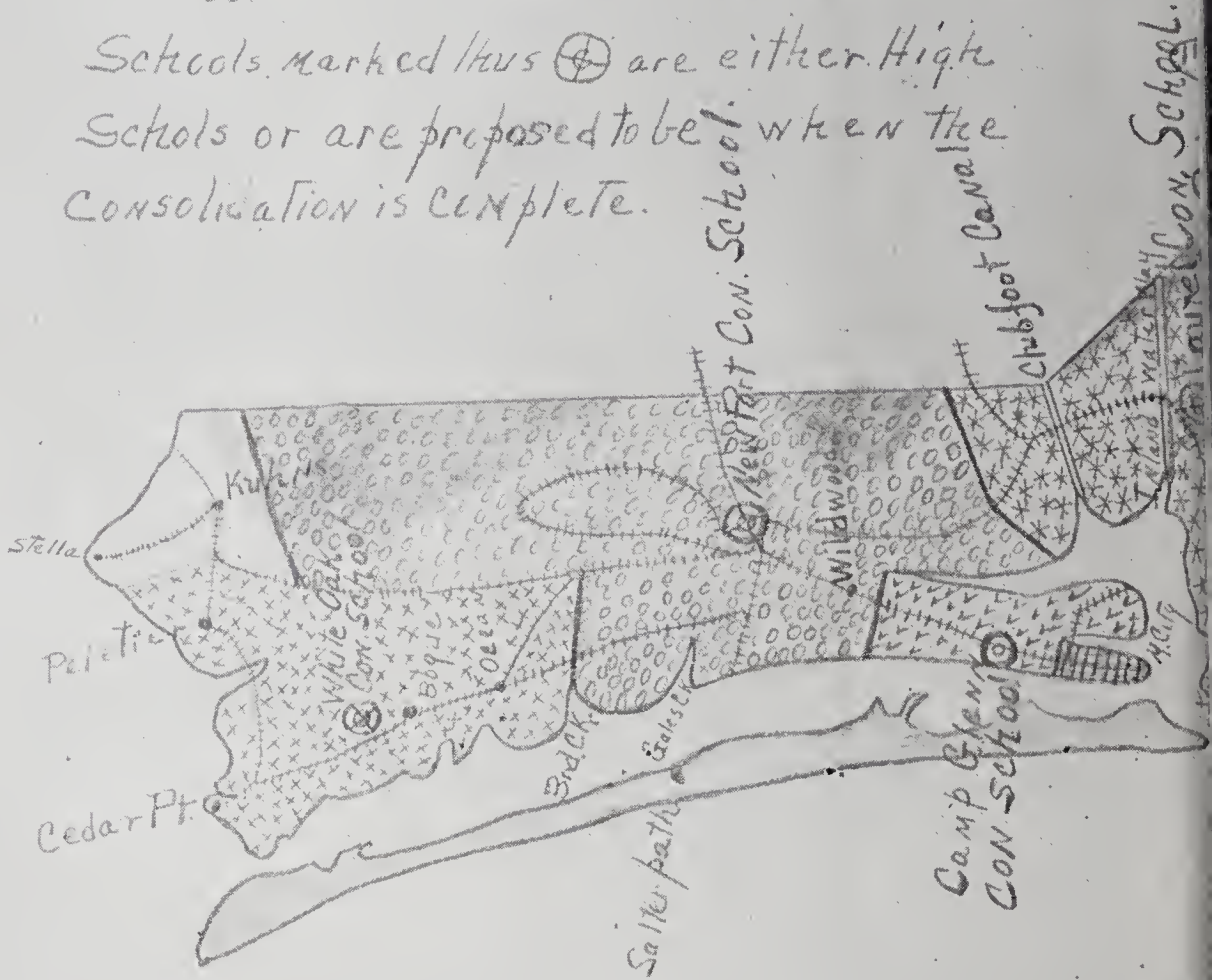
People do not need wealth in particular, they need a vision. No people of faith and vision ever remained poor. Beautiful homes, fertile farms, wealth and happiness are but the outward expression of an ideal; they are but the details of a vision worked out in tangible form.

I saw in the mountains of Western North Carolina a great water power, undeveloped and unknown. The people living around it had tilled their land for centuries with an ox and a wooden plough, and had gone ten miles away to a neighboring village to spend their money, not realizing the wonderful source of wealth Nature had thrust upon them nor how easy it would be to develop it. Finally someone had a vision and the rest was easy. And now a busy little city sits on the same spot where the oxen pulled the wooden plough and beautiful homes stand where it was once dotted with huts; and in addition to what this village has done for its own people there are constant streams of power going out to different parts of the world to turn the wheels of industry and to serve mankind in a thousand ways. Incidentally, the people of this village have become rich.

A well organized consolidated school is a power in any community, just as real as the one in the mountains of North Carolina and from it will go out into the world constant streams of power in the form of enlightened manhood and womanhood to bless and make happy those with whom they come in contact; and in the future the people will realize more fully that the taxes they have paid to complete this vision are but bread cast upon the waters that will return in years to come in the form of wealth and manhood. If you have faith in your children invest in them. Every sacrifice you make will be turned into a joy, and every dollar of tax you pay to educate them will pay a dividend. “Where there is no vision the people perish.”

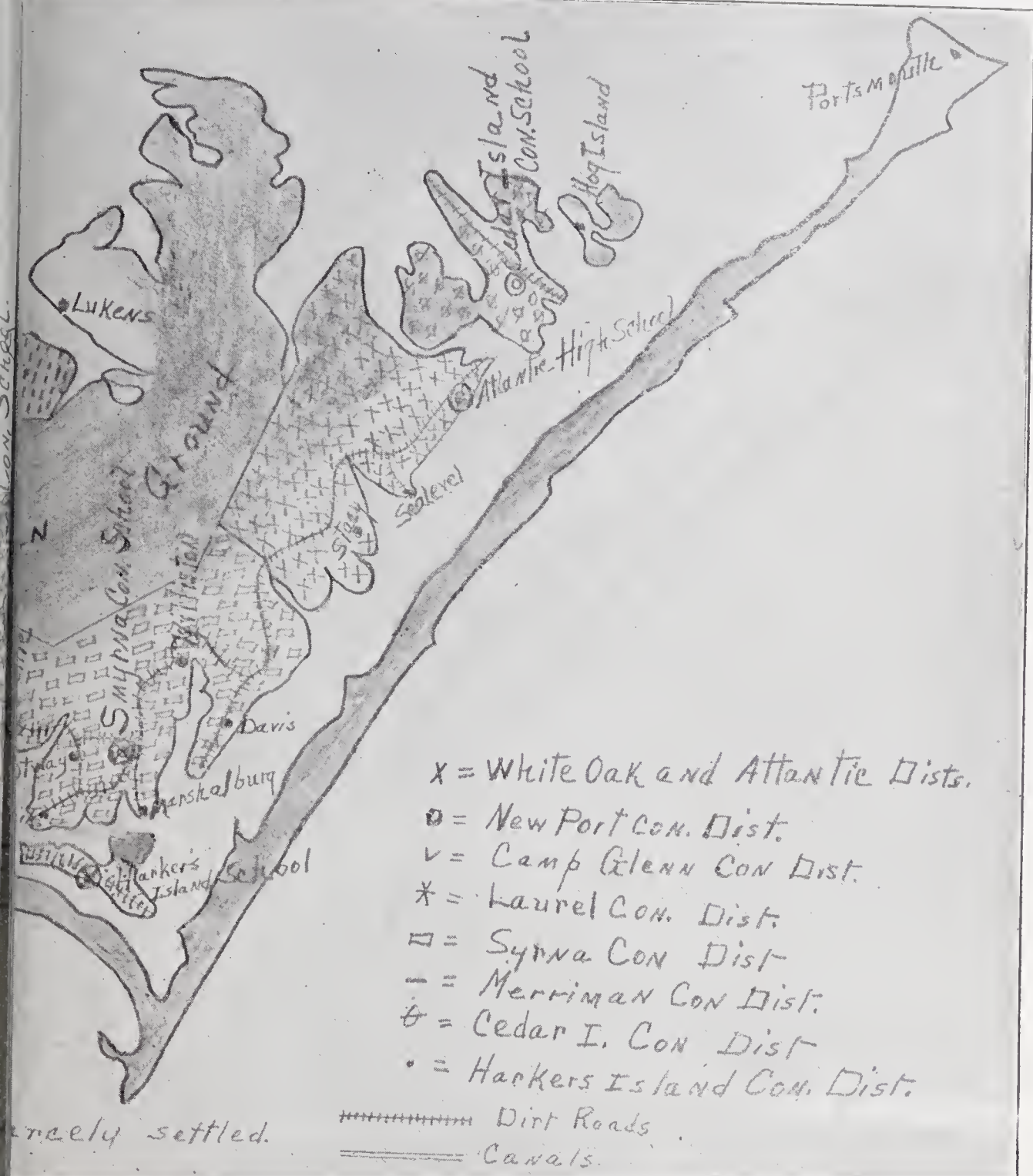
School Map of Carteret County

Schools marked thus ⊙ are Consolidated.
 Schools marked thus ⊕ are either High Schools or are proposed to be when the consolidation is complete.

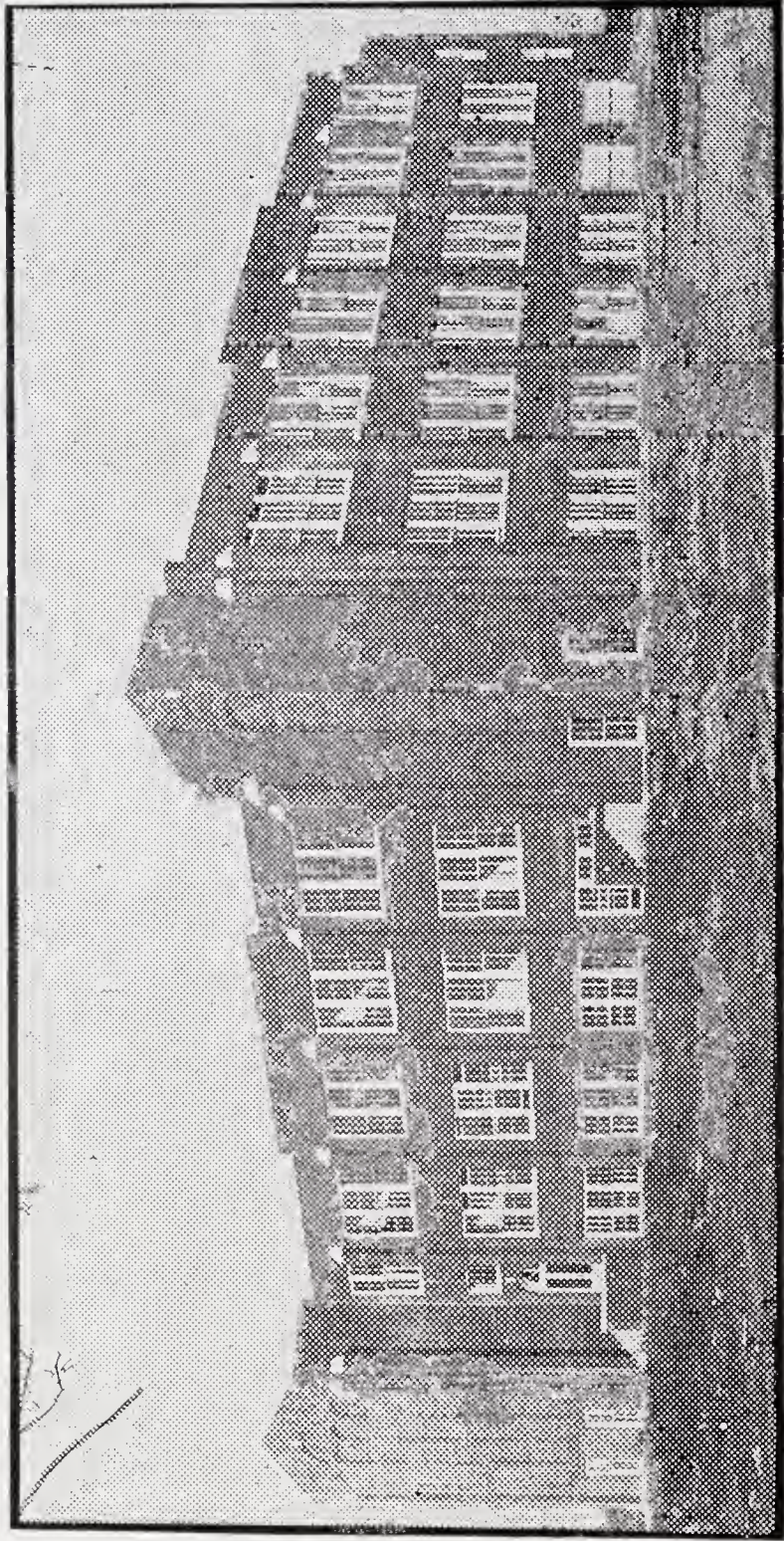


The dark part of the map is either not peopled or very sparsely peopled.

The above map shows the county substantially as the schools will be located. The consolidation of the Merrimon Consolidation have not yet been carried. Stella District, which is in the north of the county. Lower North River District will come to Beaufort.



on the consolidation scheme is complete. The Laurel Consolidation and the
 own in any particular consolidation, will probably consolidate with Onslow



NEWPORT CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

NEWPORT—A TYPICAL CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

In the Spring of 1921 the town of Newport and the surrounding community came to a full realization of the fact that the school advantages offered in their district were not what such a community could and should offer to their children. Newport had tried one of these special charter schools—a plan never well-suited for small towns. This plan was a failure compared to the vision that the leading citizens had in mind for the community. Finally the idea of co-operation between the town and the surrounding community in a large way for the purpose of building a real consolidated school took root and an election was called in July, 1921, and the question of voting a bond issue of \$65,000.00 for a new building and a thirty-cent maintenance tax was carried with an overwhelming vote.

After the bond issue of \$65,000.00 was voted the Board of Education agreed to supplement this amount with \$11,000.00 for the purpose of securing a building with the necessary equipment for a model consolidation. After this amount was spent it was still found necessary to borrow from the State \$5,000.00 to complete and equip the plant.

The building contains space for twenty class rooms, physical and chemical laboratories, a library and an office. It has an auditorium with a seating capacity of eight hundred people. The building is heated with steam, lighted with electricity and contains a modern plumbing system.

During the school year of 1920-1921, before consolidation, the school enrolled 120 children and had four teachers. This year the school will enroll between 400 and 500 children and has eleven teachers. The school carries a full four-year high school course, a music department in which is taught public school and instrumental music.

The high school department was last year placed on

the accredited list of standard high schools of North Carolina. The graduates of the Newport High School can enter without examination any college in the State or in the South. The State will also issue them certificates to teach without examination. Here are some of the conditions which must be met before a high school can be placed on the accredited list:

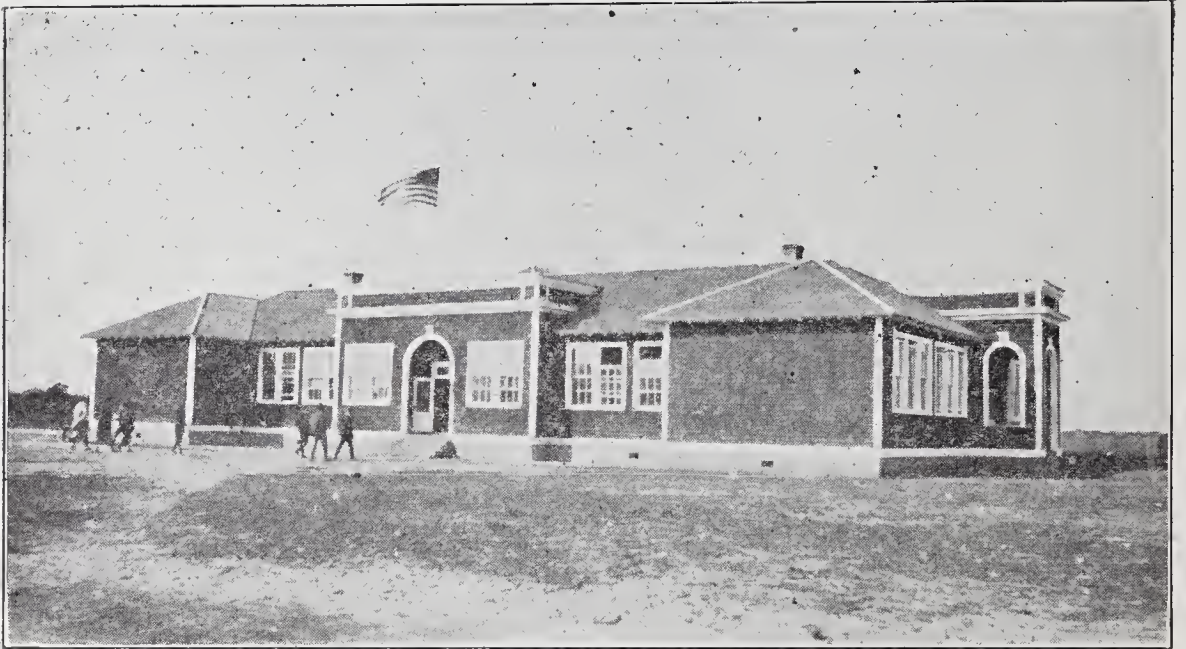
1. The school must offer a full four-year high school course of study.
2. Length of term must be at least eight months.
3. The school must have three whole-time high school teachers properly certificated.
4. Recitation periods must be at least 45 minutes long.
5. Fifteen units must be required for graduation.
6. The school must offer laboratories and laboratory equipment for the teaching of science.
7. The school must have and maintain a high school library of not fewer than 300 volumes.
8. The school must maintain an average in the high school department of not fewer than 45.

The above conditions are based on the supposition that the district offers adequate buildings, maintenance tax and other necessary elements that go into the making of a grammar school upon which a high school can be based and maintained.

At the time this school was planned the town of Newport and the surrounding community was fortunate in having some rather far-sighted leadership both among its own citizens and also in the County Board of Education.

They did not stop at planning merely for the four hundred pupils which they enrolled the first year. They planned and built a building that will accommodate with ease six hundred children. This lay-out appeared rather extravagant to some of the more conservative citizens who were being taxed for it, but to those who have taken the time to view the matter from all angles, the wisdom of the leaders has already been admitted. The building is two-thirds full now and there is a good lot of territory yet that may come into the district.

The County Board of Education plans for the future a few large consolidations for the whole county. By the very geography of the county the Newport District must grow larger. It already contains 150 square miles of territory and there are yet two outlying districts within easy reach of this school. It is not the plan of the district to try to go out and compel these districts to come in, but it stands to reason that parents who have the welfare of their children at heart are not going to be many years in coming to the conclusion that their children deserve just as good advantages as the children of the Newport District. Whenever they come to this conclusion, as one outlying district has already done, the school stands with open doors ready to offer its training to every boy and girl who lives within a reasonable distance and can be brought to the school. When the territory is brought in that can be accommodated both from the standpoint of the size of the building and the geography of the surrounding territory the district will contain about 200 square miles of territory. As the district grows and the population becomes more dense the wisdom of those who planned the building will be more apparent. The building is large enough to take care of the children that may normally be expected for a period of five or six years.



HARKERS ISLAND SCHOOL



SEA LEVEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

THIS IS THE SPECIAL ACT UNDER
WHICH CARTERET COUNTY MAY
APPROVE AND ADOPT THE
COUNTY-UNIT PLAN

AN ACT TO ECONOMIZE AND EQUALIZE SCHOOL ADVANTAGES IN CARTERET COUNTY, BY SUBMITTING THE SAME TO VOTE OF THE PEOPLE IN SAID COUNTY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. That upon the written request of one-fifth of the qualified voters of Carteret County outside of the graded school districts of Morehead City and Beaufort, the board of county commissioners of said county shall call an election for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of said county the question of whether or not there shall be levied and collected annually, in addition to all other taxes authorized, a special tax of not to exceed fifty cents on the one hundred dollars worth of property, observing the constitutional ratio and the constitutional limitation on poll tax, in order to increase the school term of said county, to equalize school advantages in the county, to provide adequate buildings and equipment, and to pay principal and interest on debts assumed from districts as hereinafter provided.

Section 2. The rules governing the election shall be as near as may be the "Rules governing elections for local taxes," and those in favor of the ratification of this act shall vote a ticket on which shall be written or printed "In favor of economizing and equalizing school advantages in Carteret County," and those opposed to the ratification of the act shall vote a ticket upon which shall be written "Against economizing and equalizing school advantages in Carteret County." The territory included in this act shall be all of that part of Carteret County not included in the special chartered districts of Morehead City and Beaufort Graded Schools. It shall be left to the discretion of the board of trustees of these two graded

school districts as to whether or not either or both shall vote on the question of becoming a part of the territory mentioned above. In case either or both of these districts should want to vote in a separate election on the question of whether or not the said district should become a part of said territory, either at the same time the election is held in the rest of the county or at any later date, either of said districts is authorized to petition the county commissioners, through its board of trustees, to call an election for that purpose in either or both of said graded school districts under the "Rules governing special tax elections," and if a majority of the qualified voters cast their ballots in favor of it, then the said graded school districts so voting shall become a part of the territory, and such election, if carried, shall serve to repeal the charter of such district and put the school therein under the county school system.

Section 3. If a majority of the qualified voters at said election shall vote in favor of the additional school tax, the board of county commissioners shall annually thereafter levy throughout the territory included under said election, at the same time and in the same manner other taxes are levied, so much of the said tax as may be recommended by the board of education, and the same shall be levied and collected annually on all real and personal property in the territory mentioned in article two, and the same shall be paid over to the treasurer of the county school fund and used by the board of education for the purpose as mentioned in section one of this act.

Section 4. If a majority of the qualified voters favor the special county tax, then it shall operate to repeal all local school taxes heretofore voted in all local tax, special school taxing districts, and all special chartered districts included in said territory as provided in section two of this act; and all indebtedness, bonded and otherwise, of such districts shall be assumed by the county board of education; and the indebtedness, including the interest and sinking fund on said bonds, shall be paid out of the revenue derived from the additional school tax levied under this act, and in order that the board of education may be able to provide adequate buildings, school sites,

and necessary equipment for the county school system, they are hereby empowered to borrow money and give their note or notes, which may in their discretion be issued in serial form with coupons attached, running not longer than twenty-five years, with no subsequent installments more than three times greater than any prior installment, and the principal and interest on such loans shall be paid out of the levy herein authorized.

Section 5. That if this act is approved by a majority of the qualified voters, then it shall become the duty of the county board of education in so far as is practical, and as rapidly as possible, to equalize school advantages in every section of the said territory, and to this end the county board of education is authorized to provide at public expense, as a charge against the fund derived from the provisions of this act, to transport those children who live beyond a reasonable walking distance of a public school. It shall also be the duty of the county board of education, as early as possible and as far as practical, to provide all those who have completed the grammar school with good high school facilities, either by having a high school in walking distance or by transporting the pupils to a high school.

Section 6. That this act shall not operate to reduce the funds which are now provided or may hereafter be provided by the Legislature for operating the schools for a period of six months, but shall be an additional amount to be used for the purpose of increasing the school term, to equalize school advantages in the territory embraced, to provide adequate buildings and equipment, and to pay interest and principal on the debt and bonds assumed from the districts as hereinbefore provided.

Section 7. It shall be the duty of the school committee of each district to meet each year at the call of the chairman at least one month before the usual time for the preparation of the annual budget by the county board of education, to consider the needs of the school or schools in each respective district during the succeeding year, and it shall report its findings and recommendations to the county board of education, and the salaries of all teachers, principals, and superintendents in the county shall be

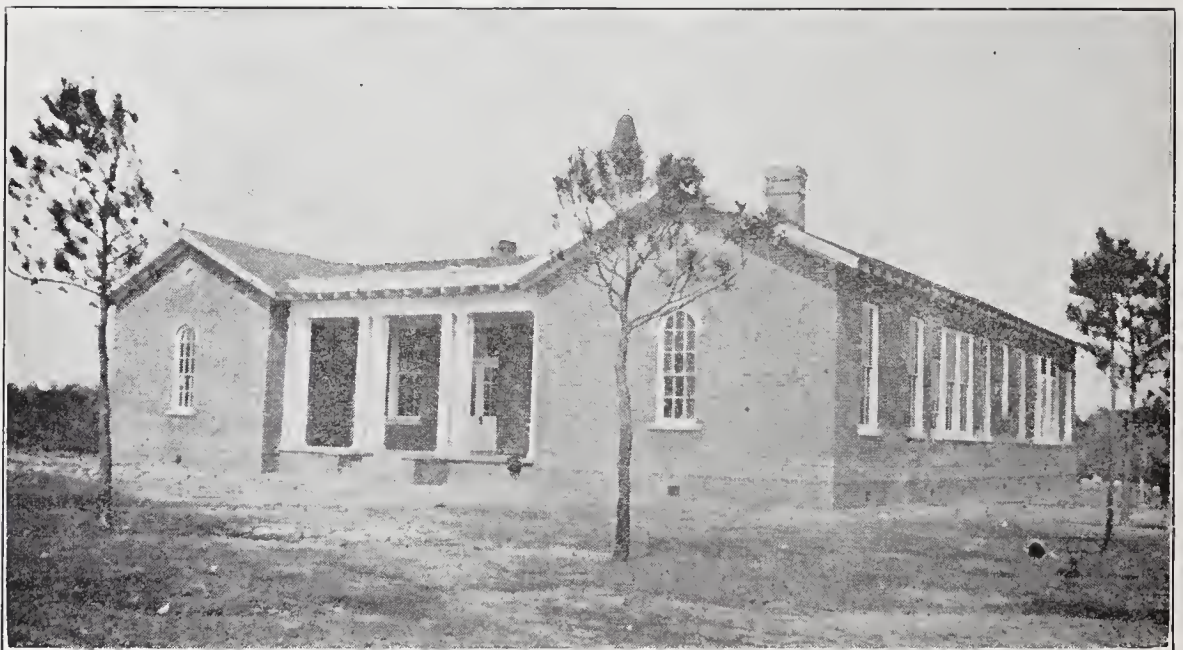
governed by a salary schedule adopted by the county board of education in accordance with law authorizing county board of education to adopt a salary schedule for teachers.

Section 8. This act shall not interfere in any way with the organization of schools of the county as provided in the general law; but if this act is approved by the qualified voters, the county board of education, within its discretion, shall have the authority of appointing five instead of three committeemen for any school district: Provided further, that this act shall not apply to Louisville School District.

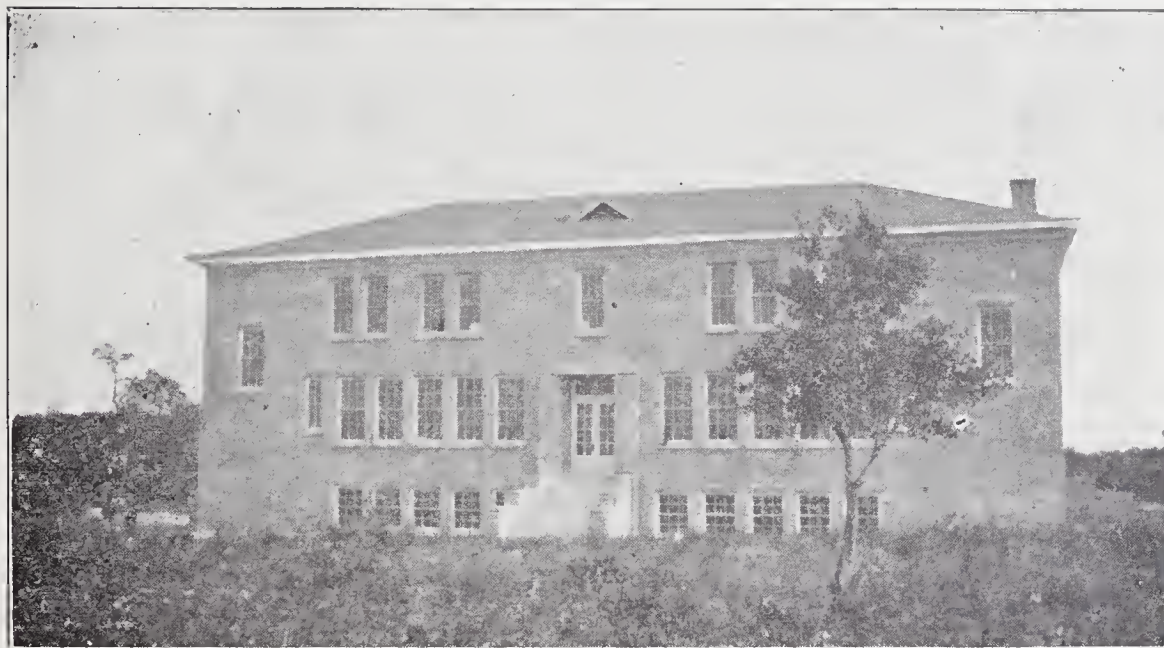
Section 9. That an election may be held under this act until ratified by a majority of the qualified voters as often as a petition signed by one-fifth of the qualified voters in said territory may request. The expenses of holding an election or elections under this act shall be paid out of the general school fund of Carteret County.

Section 10. That all laws and clauses of laws inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed, and this act shall be in force from the date of its ratification.

Ratified this the 3rd day of March, A. D. 1923.



DAVIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



ATLANTIC HIGH SCHOOL

The Atlantic School District was the first in the county to vote a special school tax and establish a public high school. This school has sent more boys and girls to the colleges of the State during the past fifteen years than any other school in the county.

A new building has recently been erected at Atlantic. This building is of brick and contains space for ten class rooms, an office, a library, a music room and an auditorium. The building is equipped with new furniture, laboratory apparatus, steam heat and electric lights.

This school is doing standard high school work this year and will be placed on the accredited list of high schools at the end of the term. The high school pupils from Sea Level and Stacy will be transported to this building.

The Board of Education plans a department of teacher training in this school beginning with the school year of 1924-25. In teacher training the course offered in this department will be the equivalent of one year of college work.



CARTERET COUNTY'S EDUCATIONAL CREED

I believe in education. I believe in the children of Carteret County and that in them lies our greatest undeveloped resource. I believe in their ability and I am willing to invest in their future. I believe in solving the problem of their education we will solve the problem of the County's future happiness, industry and wealth.

I believe in work, and that through the sweat of honest toil we catch the vision of true happiness. I believe that wealth is the product of a fertile mind and industrious habits, and that intelligent industry is the key to happiness.

I believe in our public school system, in the integrity of its teachers and in the future destiny of its pupils. I believe, as a citizen of the county, that a generous portion of my energy and wealth should be at the disposal of this school system in order that the education and happiness of the next generation may be made secure.

UNIVERSITY OF N.C. AT CHAPEL HILL



00049667314

FOR USE ONLY IN

THE NORTH CAROLINA COLLECTION

